

REVIEWS

The Sunflower Family (Asteraceae) of British Columbia. Vol. I—Senecioneae. GEORGE W. DOUGLAS. British Columbia Provincial Museum. No. 23 Occasional Papers Series. \$6.00.

This is the first of an intended 5 volumes on the Asteraceae of British Columbia, which the author hopes to complete in another 7 or 8 years. After some introductory matter (including illustrations) on the family in general, the author proceeds to the taxonomic treatment of the Senecioneae, with keys, descriptions, commentary, illustrations, and dot-maps. The 9 genera and 55 species are arranged alphabetically. The taxonomy is in general harmonious with the views of some other recent authors dealing with adjacent or more inclusive areas, but the author does not hesitate to strike out on his own when he considers it necessary. The drawings are handsome and accurate. An extensive bibliography and rather full synonymy are given at the end, but without direct citation of the places and dates of publication of the names. I was a bit taken aback to see my 1955 treatment of composites in *Vascular Plants of the Pacific Northwest* lauded as a pioneering work. I had thought that my own predecessors were the pioneers.

It is de rigueur for a reviewer to point out some minor errors, slyly implying that *he* would have done a better and more careful job, and indeed I could quibble about a few details in this work. Having been on the other side of the fence a few times, I will not now reach through to nip off a morsel or so. Instead I will congratulate the author on a good job well done. I trust that his estimate of the time required for completion will not prove to be as optimistic as some of my own have been.—ARTHUR CRONQUIST, New York Botanical Garden.

Landmarks of Botanical History. By EDWARD LEE GREENE. 2 volumes: x + [v] + 1139 pp. Stanford University Press, Stanford, CA, for the Hunt Institute for Botanical Documentation, Carnegie-Mellon University, Pittsburgh, PA. 1983. \$100. ISBN 0-8047-1075-9.

Systematic botanists, as mindful as most other scientists of the debt they owe their predecessors, are nevertheless perhaps more historically inclined than many, because the method of their study often requires reference to the writings on, and indeed, the very collections of, the plants studied by colleagues long departed. For the last half century or so, however, these fathomings have rarely had to extend back into the “nomenclatural Precambrian,” that time before Linnaeus’ systematization of binomials. It was not always so. Although not without precedent, there emerged out of the (then) botanically rich(er) landscape of nineteenth century California the most strident voice against Linnaeanism, at least that aspect of its ordaining that plant naming would begin with Linnaeus’ *Species Plantarum* (1753). That voice was E. L. Greene’s, whose nomenclatural atavisms came to naught, but whose other contributions to botany enriched in some instances, merely increased in others, the literature botanists have had to contend with. The present volumes, however, are a *tour de force*.

The *Landmarks* are just that, not a chronological account. Just as in his botanizing (including, fortunately or unfortunately, even his floristic works), Greene picked what interested him. Thus Part I of the present edition (a republication of the 1909 work, which was subtitled *A Study of Certain Epochs in the Development of the Science of Botany*) concludes with the sixteenth century “German Fathers” of botany, whereas